

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-20, and 22-29 were originally pending. Claims 2-6, 9-13, and 16-19 were amended. Claims 1, 8, 15, 20, and 22-29 were canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 9-13, and 16-19 remain pending.

Applicant thanks the Office for indicating that claims 6, 12-13, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. To place this application into condition for allowance, Applicant has so amended these claims. Additionally, all dependent claims have been amended to respectively depend from one of these allowable claims.

Applicant has amended the claims to address the claim objections in section 5 of the Action.

A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) correctly identifying the priority application identified in the amendment to the specification filed on August 20, 2001, will arrive under separate cover.

Accordingly, pending claims 2-6, 9-13, and 16-19 are in condition for allowance, and action to that end is urgently requested. Should any issue remain that prevents allowance of the application, the Office is encouraged to contact the undersigned prior or issuance of an advisory action.

Respectfully submitted,

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